

Message Text

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SUBJECT: APPEALS FOR CLEMENCY IN BHUTTO CASE

1. FOR YOUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION, THE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM APPEALS OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND PROMINENT
AMERICANS, URGING CLEMENCY IN THE BHUTTO CASE. (TEXTS
BEING POUCHED).

A. ON MARCH 21, SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN ON THE FLOOR
OF THE SENATE SAID: I WAS SHOCKED TO LEARN OF THE CONVIC-
TION AND SENTENCING TO DEATH BEFORE A FIRING SQUAD OF FORMER
PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO. WHILE I DO NOT WISH
TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER STATE AND
I DO NOT INTEND TO CHALLENGE THE JUDICIAL PROCESS IN
PAKISTAN, I AM COMPELLED TO STATE MY PERSONAL FEELING
ON THIS ISSUE AND TO APPEAL TO THE GOP TO COMMUTE THE
SENTENCE... HIS EXECUTION WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY RESULT
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IN DEEPENING DIVISIONS, WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE, AND A LOWERING
OF INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE IN PAKISTAN'S POLITICAL SYSTEM
.....I STRONGLY URGE THE GOP TO ACT OUT OF PRUDENCE, COM-
PASSION AND WISDOM. COMMUTING THE DEATH SENTENCE IS
NOT TANTAMOUNT TO REVOKING THE VERDICT IN THE CRIME WITH
WHICH HE WAS CHARGED..."

B. SEVEN MEMBERS OF HOUSE ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE (WOLFE, MEYNER, FOUNTAIN, BURKE, BUYER, YATRON, AND BEILENSON) SENT TELEGRAM ON MARCH 22 TO PAK AMBASSADOR STATING IN PART, "WE WRITE TO YOU TODAY WITH A PROFOUND SENSE OF URGENCY AS WELL AS UNDERSTANDING FOR THE DIFFICULTY OF YOUR SITUATION. WE UNDERSTAND AND WE HONOR THE SENSITIVITIES OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AND YOUR PEOPLE AT THE PRESENT TIME. FURTHER, WE WISH IN NO WAY TO ASSOCIATE OURSELVES ON ONE SIDE OR OTHER OF THE DEBATE OVER MR. BHUTTO'S POLICIES, NOR DO WE SEEK TO PASS JUDGEMENT ON HIS CASE... EVENTS IN OUR OWN COUNTRY IN RECENT YEARS HAVE TAUGHT US THE DANGERS AND DIFFICULTIES OF REPLACING AND ATTEMPTING TO PUNISH NATIONAL LEADERS -- EVEN WHEN THERE IS LITTLE QUESTION OVER THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM. ACCORDINGLY, THE MEMBERS OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE TODAY RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT GRANT MR. BHUTTO AN APPEAL AND THAT THE PROCEEDINGS BE FULLY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND TO INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS. OUR APPEAL TODAY IS BASED ON THE PROFOUND CONCERN THAT CARRYING OUT THE DEATH PENALTY AGAINST MR. BHUTTO IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES COULD HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR CONTINUED PEACE AND STABILITY IN PAKISTAN -- A GOAL WHICH WE TRULY SHARE WITH YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN." (FULL TEXT RELEASED TO THE PRESS).

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C. LETTER TO THE EDITOR IN NEW YORK TIMES, MARCH 24, FROM JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH AND EDWARD S. MASON ARGUED THAT BHUTTO EXECUTION "NOT IN HUMANE TRADITION OF THE PAKISTANI PEOPLE. AND, RIGHTLY OR OTHERWISE, IT WILL BE WIDELY INTERPRETED AS AN ACT OF POLITICAL RETRIBUTION. AS SUCH IT WILL HAVE A DEEPLY ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE REPUTATION OF A COUNTRY AND PEOPLE THAT, ALONG WITH MANY OTHER AMERICANS, WE VERY MUCH ADMIRE." VANCE

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